

## **MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2010, 12,047 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is a slight increase from the 12,027 marriages that occurred here in 2009. The Nebraska resident marriage rate in 2010 was 6.6 marriages per 1,000 population. Long-term trends show that Nebraska's marriage rate rose sharply during the 1960s, peaking in 1970 at 10.6, and has declined steadily ever since.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska. In 2010, only 5.5% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom; thirty years ago, in 1980, 23.9% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, nearly half (48.4%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2010 involved either a bride or groom who was at least 30 years of age, up from 26.9% in 1980. The most popular ages for marriages taking place in Nebraska during 2010 were 25 for men and 24 for women; in 1980, the same numbers for Nebraska marriages were 22 for men and 19 for women.

There were 6,603 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2010, which is an increase from the 2009 count of 6,084 and is also the highest number of divorces granted in the state since 1991. The 2010 number translates into a rate of 3.6 divorces per 1,000 population. Nebraska's divorce rate rose dramatically during the 1960s and 1970s, peaking at 4.3 in 1981 (also the state's peak year for the number of divorces granted). Since stabilizing during the 1980s, the divorce rate in Nebraska has been in slow decline since the early 1990s.

More divorces were granted to people in their thirties than in any other decade of life, with 45.8% of Nebraska divorces in 2010 involving at least one person between 30 and 39 years of age. Almost one of every four (23.1%) Nebraska divorces in 2010 terminated marriages lasting three years or less, while almost half (48.1%) ended marriages lasting seven years or less. Just over half (51.3%) of the state's 2010 divorces involved couples with children, and 6,251 children were affected by these divorces. More than half (55.4%) of the state's 2010 divorces involved at least one type of settlement: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,581 divorces, followed by property (awarded in 1,661 divorces), medical reimbursement (awarded in 796 divorces), and alimony (awarded in 642 divorces).